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MINERAL INFORMATION SERVICE is a monthly news release concerning the mineral resources and industry of CALIFORNIA, designed to inform the public of the discoveries, operations, markets, statistics, and new publications. It is distributed without cost upon request.

MOTHER LODE BOOK REPRINTED

The fourth edition of the Division of Mines' best known book, GEOLOGIC GUIDEBOOK ALONG HIGHWAY 49, is now available.

This book, first published in 1948 as Bulletin 141, is a semi-technical treatise prepared to serve as a guide to the traveler who is desirous of information concerning the mines, minerals, and rocks of the region, as well as the old structures erected during the gold rush days.

Ten different authors contributed to the text and valuable information was obtained from a score of mining men and geologists. The volume includes "Sierran Roads of Today and Yesterday", by Dorothy G. Jenkins, an article well worth reading as it gives the traveler a survey of the roads traversing the area and illustrates their history. "The Discovery of Gold in California", by Donald C. Cutter, has to do with the history, life and romance of the Gold Rush period. The place of gold placer mining is well presented in Charles V. Averill's paper on the "History of Placer Mining for Gold in California". The reader is oriented as to the nature of the Sierra Nevada and the place it occupies in relation to history, geology, civilization and economics by Olaf P. Jenkins' papers on the "Sierra Nevada Province" and the "Geological History of the Sierran Gold Belt". C. A. Logan presents an educational as well as entertaining treatise on the "History of Mining and Milling Methods in California", and "Geologic Maps and Notes Along Highway 49", by Oliver E. Bowen, Jr., and Richard A. Crippen, Jr., containing 12 strip maps on route geology, is a well illustrated work on the position of the mines and quarries, the importance of their mineral deposits, and the geologic reasons for their being. "The Formation of Quartz Veins", by John A. Burgess will be of interest to all amateur mineralogists as well as those more technically trained, and his "Mining on Carson Hill", tells of Jim Carson's activities in that region and gives the history of the Carson Hill Gold Mining Company.



New Brunswick mine near Grass Valley.

CURRENT MINING ACTIVITIES ALONG HIGHWAY 49

California State Highway 49, the Mother Lode Highway, follows the Sierran Gold Belt. This belt has been the major source of the more than 2-1/3 billion dollars worth of gold that has been produced in California. It is a more or less continuous system of gold-bearing quartz veins on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada. That portion of the belt extending northwest from Mariposa to a few miles north of Placerville is known as the Mother Lode.

Although gold is by far the best-known mineral commodity found along Highway 49, other mineral commodities in this region have become increasingly important, particularly limestone and limestone products. Other mineral commodities produced along the highway include sand and gravel, slate, chromite, copper, silica, rhyolite tuff, serpentine, silver, lead, and zinc. The following is a resume of present mining activities along Highway 49.

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